

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's City of Springfield COVID-19 Situational Update

Monday, November 8, 2021

Week of October 31 – November 6

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, in the best interests of our residents and business community, continues his meetings with his cabinet heads as they work 24/7 to facilitate and coordinate with all of our local, state, federal, and public and private partners in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Below are the most recent updates as reported from each City Departments.

Mayor's Office

- Continues to coordinate the city's efforts with all stakeholders (state, federal, hospital and medical facilities, public and private partners, etc.) in response of services, and relief and recovery efforts, measures and initiatives
- City Hall and all municipal buildings are fully reopened effective June 1, 2021
- Mayor Sarno urges residents young and old to get vaccinated
- City lifts citywide mask policy effective November 1, 2021
- Mayor Sarno and Sheriff Cocchi joined with State Senators Gomez and Lesser, Representative Ramos, City Councilor Lederman and local officials to raise Puerto Rican Flag in celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month
- Water and Sewer Commission offers Customer Assistance Program
- Springfield holds 'V for Victory' dedication ceremony at Forest Park
- Mayor Sarno brings greetings to AmeriCorps opening day swearing-in celebration
- City of Springfield holds general elections for city council and school committee
- HHS offers COVID-19 booster clinic for eligible residents

Health

- City of Springfield's weekly COVID-19 cases:
 - Week of April 18, 2021: 504
 - Week of April 26, 2021: 425
 - Week of May 2, 2021: 265
 - Week of May 9, 2021: 154
 - Week of May 16, 2021: 156
 - Week of May 23, 2021: 118
 - Week of May 30, 2021: 65
 - Week of June 6, 2021: 30

- Week of June 14, 2021: 27
- Week of June 21, 2021: 17
- Week of June 27, 2021: 23
- Week of July 4, 2021: 37
- Week of July 11, 2021: 64
- Week of July 18, 2021: 119
- Week of July 25, 2021: 122
- Week of August 1, 2021: 279
- Week of August 8, 2021: 374
- Week of August 15, 2021: 477
- Week of August 22, 2021: 517
- Week of August 29, 2021: 547
- Week of September 5, 2021: 499
- Week of September 12, 2021: 886
- Week of September 19, 2021: 510
- Week of September 26, 2021: 399
- Week of October 3, 2021: 351
- Week of October 10, 2021: 258
- Week of October 17, 2021: 254
- Week of October 24, 2021: 215
- Week of October 31, 2021: 259
- Total positive cases: 28,842
 - 246 deaths of Springfield residents related to COVID-19
 - 60 deaths reported from long term care facilities
 - 186 residential deaths
 - Ethnic breakdown of deaths:
 - 99 White – 40.2%
 - 55 Black – 22.3%
 - 85 Hispanic – 34.5%
 - 7 Asian – 2.8%
- 84% of positive cases are under the age of 50 (as of November 8, 2021)
 - 59% are under the age of 30
 - 25% are between the age of 31-50
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures
- MDPH reported that as of October 30, 2021, 4,732,126 individuals have been vaccinated in Massachusetts.
- Will continue contact tracing efforts for foreseeable future

Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management

- Continues to maintain the \$1.5 million in Covid-19 prevention equipment that was previously installed across the city in school and municipal buildings. The upgrades have brought the buildings into compliance with the ASHRAE standards.

Finance / Eco Dev

- Continues to review costs associated with COVID-19 response for relief and recovery reimbursements
- Continues to track and monitor all COVID-19 related spending for reimbursement aspects
- Continues to track, monitor and record all CARES Act and ARPA funding aspects

- Tracking local, state and national unemployment trends and numbers
 - City of Springfield unemployment rate (2020)
 - 4.8% - March
 - 21.1% - April
 - 21% - May
 - 21.6% - June
 - 16.3% - July
 - 15.3% - August
 - 15.2% - September
 - 13.6% - October
 - 12.8% - November
 - 12.6% - December
 - 12.3% - January (2021)
 - 12.2% - February (2021)
 - 11.2% - March (2021)
 - 10.9% - April (2021)
 - 9.6% - May (2021)
 - 10.7% - June (2021)
 - 11% - July (2021)
 - 10.4% - August (2021)
 - 10.5% - September (2021)
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts unemployment rate (2020)
 - 3.1% - March
 - 16.3% - April
 - 15.4% - May
 - 14.8% - June
 - 10.1% - July
 - 9.1% - August
 - 8.9% - September
 - 8.1% - October
 - 7.7% - November
 - 7.3% - December
 - 7.8% - January (2021)
 - 7% - February (2021)
 - 6.7% - March (2021)
 - 6.4% - April (2021)
 - 5.0% - May (2021)
 - 4.9% - June (2021)
 - 4.9% - July (2021)
 - 5% - August (2021)
 - 5.2% - September (2021_
 - National unemployment rate (2020)
 - 4.4% - March
 - 14.8% - April
 - 13.3% - May
 - 11.1% - June
 - 10.2% - July
 - 8.4% - August
 - 7.8% - September
 - 6.9% - October

- 6.7% - November
- 6.7% - December
- 6.3% - January (2021)
- 6.2% - February (2021)
- 6% - March (2021)
- 6.1% - April (2021)
- 5.8% - May (2021)
- 5.9% - June (2021)
- 5.4% - July (2021)
- 5.2% - August (2021)
- 4.8% - September (2021)
- Continues to review and work on economic development projects across the city.
- Continuing to review funding program for workforce training development
- Continues to monitor all federal and state relief and recovery funding and reimbursement aspects
- Continues to review costs associated with COVID-19 response for relief and recovery reimbursements
- Continues to monitor lost revenue and deficit spending due to pandemic
- Continues proactive meetings with Josh Norman of GP Strategies to track, identify, and implement relief and recovery reimbursement aspects.
- Continuing to review and monitor all city capital projects to keep them on track to the best of our ability and to extend deadlines if needed

Schools

- To date, Sodexo has served over 8.7 million meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12th (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks)
- Over 20,000 laptops have been distributed to students for remote learning
 - 10,000 laptops were given out over the summer, including to our homeless students
 - 7,000 laptops were already distributed to our students before the pandemic
- iPads distributed to Pre-K students
- Out of an abundance of caution, social distancing will be implemented along with pre-packaged lunches.

Law/HR/Labor

- Continues to review and monitor all federal and state legislation pertaining to COVID-19

Veterans

- The VA Central Western Mass & VA Connecticut Healthcare Systems are working together to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to VA Enrolled Veterans of all ages